June 11, 2012

The Honorable Harry B. Limehouse III
326C Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Representative Limehouse,

I am writing to let you know that today I signed R243, H.5051, a bill that allows the Commission on Higher Education to approve doctoral programs in Marine Science at four-year colleges and universities, even if similar programs are offered by a research university. Although I generally disagree with the creation of exemptions or loopholes, I have signed this bill because I support increased choice for students and greater flexibility for our public colleges and universities.

Last month, the Senate passed S.1397 as a first step towards establishing Accountability-Based Funding (ABF) for South Carolina’s public colleges and universities. This joint resolution also called for the development of a set of financial and regulatory incentives that would reward institutions for achieving their missions. I was disappointed that S. 1397 did not emerge from the House Education and Public Works Committee during this year’s session, but I look forward to working with you on ABF next year.

For these reasons, I signed R243, H.5051 into law.

My very best,

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/jdb

cc: Members of the General Assembly